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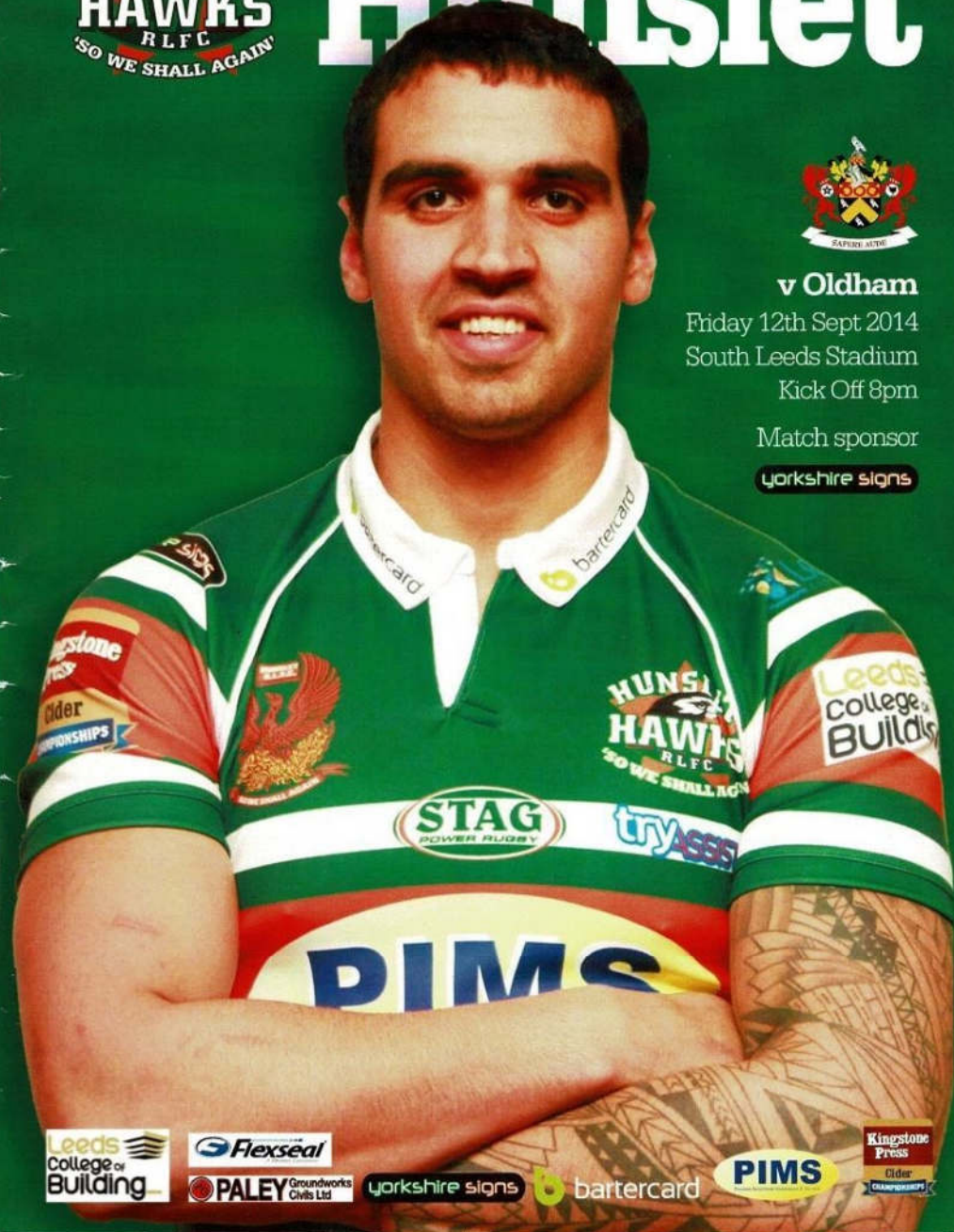
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From The Chair...

Good evening everyone. First of all apologies for having to play this fixture on a Friday night but the stadium had already been booked for other events this weekend and try as we might we have been unable to change that.

A warm welcome to supporters, players and officials from Oldham for today's first Kingstone Press Championship Play – off game as the season moves to an exciting climax and the ultimate promotion prize in The Grand Final at Headingley looms into view. Our last fixture at Whitebank saw Oldham snatch the points in a dramatic last minute finish. Let's hope today's game is just as entertaining but with the result hopefully in our favour.

Apologies for my absence today. I'll have to follow events via regular updates from the Editor as I will be in Prague for a short break with my good lady wife.

You will no doubt have seen the recent controversy surrounding DR where, having had 3 points deducted for breaching the rules, both Batley and Doncaster successfully overturned that points deduction on a joint appeal. As part of their appeal they cited several clubs who had breached the rules in the 2013 season and not been punished. It will not have escaped those following this story that one of those clubs cited was Hunslet. So, I thought it only fair that I explain the situation from our point of view. We advised the RFL that we intended to play Paul McShane on DR in the final game of last season against Featherstone at home. The RFL notified us that Paul had not played enough games during the season to be eligible to

play. Additionally they had also noted that the previous game Paul had played for us was also after the DR deadline and as such we were in breach of the rules and potentially subject to a points deduction. However, they considered that as we had not won the game in which Paul had played then we had not received any additional benefit from his presence and so we were simply given a warning. I mention this because if the RFL acted on our indiscretion last season then I would be surprised if they had not similarly intervened in the other instances mentioned. I think there are lessons to be learned from all sides here, not least that the DR rules, and to be frank a whole host of other operational rules, need to be simplified. Additionally, I think there has to be a process that allows clubs and the RFL to handle and manage Appeals in a more professional way, out of the glare of the watching media.

Finally, we held our inaugural Heritage Dinner on Friday 29 August and the event was an outstanding success. Many thanks go to Geoff Gray and Andy Hemingway for the tremendous work they put into organising the event and the Heritage stands that Andy also had designed and produced were simply outstanding. Thanks also to Harry Gratton who compered the evening so successfully raising funds for the Foundation and SITRAN, our Club charity, on whose behalf Stuart Keane made an excellent and impassioned speech.

Enjoy the Game

Neil

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Honorary Vice Presidents - Sean Cludera, Margaret Liles
Club Patron - The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
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Club Address / Details

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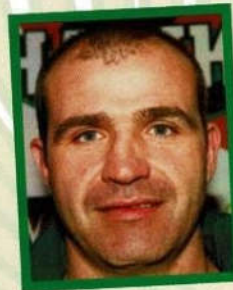
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Coach's Corner...



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The eagerly anticipated playoffs are upon us and the one promotion spot comes down to who wins the Grand Final and with 5 teams all giving it there all it promises to be very exciting.

Tonight we host Oldham in round one and it's a mouth-watering game in prospect with the winners travelling to York and the losers getting a tie against either Gateshead or Hemel. We will prepare for a

massive tussle against Oldham tonight and I'm sure we will all witness a very tough game with both teams matched up closely.

Hopefully we can put in a strong performance tonight.

Enjoy the game

Barry





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Today's Visitors...



We welcome to South Leeds Stadium this week Oldham Roughyeads for the first play-off game. Both teams have had a short turn-a-round with both playing on Sunday, with Oldham at home and us travelling to South Wales.

Both sides warmed up for the game with big wins in the final league games of the season. While we were in the sun in South Wales, Oldham were raking up the points at Whitebank against the All Golds. With the venue for today's game being the only matter to be decided on Sunday, Oldham had to better our result to stage the game at Whitebank. Oldham set the standard of the game early doors, scoring inside the first 2 minutes through centre Jon Ford. Having attacked down the left hand side once and getting success, they followed the same plan with the same results with 2nd rower Josh Crowley crashing over twice before half time. Oldham didn't only attack down the wing, they went up the middle, with the same result. Phil Joy crossed and sub Ben Wood scored a brace. They also tried the aerial route, after

a Hughes bomb was followed up by Danny Langtree. The All Golds did cross the whitewash in the first half to leave the half time score 42-6.

With the game effectively over at half time, Oldham could have been guilty of taking there foot off the gas. That wasn't the case, they crossed for a further 5 tries in the second half. The pick of them was the last score from Dale Bloomfield following the slickest handing move of the game in the 79th minute. Oldham also conceded 3 tries in the second half, which left the final score 68-24 to Oldham.

One to watch.

The one to watch this week is a close one. Had Lewis Palfrey played last week it would have been him. But after Sundays game it is Steven Roper. He arrived on loan from Rochdale Hornets in May, making his debut in the 30-22 win at the All Golds. He can play both Half Back and Hooker, and is also an accomplished goal kicker.

Kimberley Johnson





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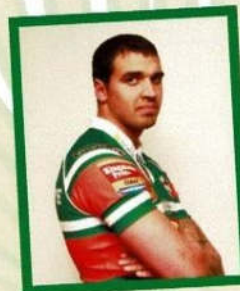
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Player In Focus...



Aston Wilson

Hunslet Hawks Aston Wilson is the player in question this week, praised for his devastating runs and powerful hand offs Aston is in his second season at the South Leeds.

A Queens RLFC amateur, Aston is a local talent with family ties to the Hawks club, following in father Warren Wilson's footsteps who played for the Hawks at Elland Road in the 1980's, he is no stranger to Yorkshire based clubs. Previously at the Leeds Rhinos reserves and in the Castleford Tigers academy Aston made a name for himself as a young impact centre/winger and was often considered to be the next big thing.

Aston was left disappointed last year managing to make only a handful of appearances through injuries and watching his side get relegated all in the same season, but Wilson is determined that this year will be a different story. "If the squad we have play to their full potential there is

nothing to stop us. Things haven't quite gone to plan all year but there is plenty of belief still in camp. Promotion is definitely still the big goal and we can hopefully keep up this good form into the playoffs."

The prospect of having promotion and relegation back in rugby league with full effects for all leagues gives plenty of potential for players to get that chance in a higher league. However as disappointed as Aston was to be released from the opportunity to go full time at the Leeds Rhinos, Wilson knows he made some mistakes but has no regrets and his happy with the Hawks.

Managing to balance his work and rugby life thanks to a supportive family, and working at a family based company Aston finds the semi professional life enjoyable. He also expresses his feelings on the club that welcomed him a year and a half ago. "I love playing at the club and feel really comfortable here. I know a lot of the supporters and it's special that my dad used to play here. It's reasonably local and the club are in a good place."

Focussing on staying off the injury list and on the team sheet Aston has struggled with staying regularly

injury free for two seasons now, but taking inspiration from two of the big names at the club Wilson is ready to feature in the big games left. "I really look up to Marchy (David March) and Mauny (Danny Maun), their careers have been so successful and they are both really professional."

Aston is a strong and exciting player to watch, his opposition number are usually very aware of his presence and given space Wilson is often a big threat. A hard working centre with good ball handling skills the fans have their fingers crossed Aston is fit for the rest of the year and can have his shot to show what he has to offer. Good luck for the rest of the season Aston.

Niamh Wilson



The City of Leeds Diving Club



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The Secretary

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Match Report...

South Wales Scorpions 6 Hunslet Hawks 50

A trip to Mountain Ash, South Wales for the last league game of the season was the perfect setting for Eaton's boys to produce a 50-6 defeat over the Welsh side and secure themselves a second place finish in the table.

Gavin Duffy, who would go on to steal a total of 5 tries, was first on the board pushing over in the corner, it was a difficult kick for Ansell who put it just wide. Duckworth followed up with some much needed aggression throwing off opposition defence he fancied his chances reaching out over the whitewash but the try chalked off as the officials called him to be in touch. The opportunities were few and far between for the Hawks in the opening quarter with the Wales side giving as good as they got but when Watson took the ball cleanly on the restart and gave a neat pass out to Danny Maun that was the only encouragement he needed to sprint through the line and finish it off.

Watson was later denied a try because of a forward pass. Barry's side had managed to keep the Welsh side defending for the majority of the opening quarter but when Mike Grady's side had their share of the position they were eager to get some points on the board. Connor Farrer would have been clean away from half back if James Coyle had not have produced a scrambling tackle to stop him. When Stenchion knocked the ball awkwardly just metres from the Scorpions line Emanuelli capitalised kicking it through for himself to get a hand to touch down. At 8-6 things could go either way at the break. Stenchion was keen to make up for the earlier error and wasted no time powering over the line to push the Hawks another try in front.

Duffy kicked things off in similar fashion as he had opened in the first half, pouncing on an accurately placed Tom Coyle kick to score in the corner. Storming into the final 49 minutes Jimmy Watson was the last pair of hands on the ball as it travelled across the field the fullback darted through the defenders and buried over the line for a try moments

later. When Michael Haley latched onto a pass and charged over there seemed no way back for the home side, but this did not cool the Hawks onslaught. Another setback came for the Scorpions as winger Lee Brickwood sprinted down the touchline to steal one for himself. The defence was also impressive noticeably Aaron Lyons and John Oakes who forced a drop goal on 60 minutes from a turnover relieving any pressure the side would face. Keen to finish in style Gavin Duffy ran in another 3 tries and Coyle managed to fix up the goals and finish the game up at 50-6.

A score line that did not quite reflect the efforts of the home side in the first half but an almost flawless second half gave the Hawks the victory they deserved. A difficult run faces the boys now and a home fixture against Oldham kicks it all off on Friday night hope to see you all there as we get ready for the promotion push.

Hunslet Hawks:

J Watson, J Duckworth, L Brickwood, D Maun, G Duffy, T Coyle, J Coyle, R Moore, D Ansell, M Haley, L Briscoe, J Oakes, L Mackay. Interchanges - A Lyons, L Reed, L Stenchion, R Peltier

Scorers - Duffy (5), Maun, Brickwood, Watson, Haley, Stenchion

Goals - T Coyle (5)



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Hunslet Warriors, one of the most successful clubs in recent history in the amateur game are now commencing recruitment for the new summer 2013 season with the biggest and best league in the country, Yorkshire Juniors.

The Warriors are running teams from under 7's through to under 16's at all age group which are well established. With training facilities second to none, Clubmark Gold accredited, and qualified coaches you can be assured the players will meet their potential in a safe friendly environment.

The Warriors are also proud to announce as part of their development plan a CUB section will start shortly involving juniors aged 4 and 5 years old. The emphasis will be based on fun and enjoyment 100%.

Interested? call down to the club opposite Hunslet Morrisons, or call Secretary Steve Bisby on 07833182875 or email s.bisby@sky.com

Good luck to the mighty Hawks this season!



The Old Boys having gone from strength to strength over the last couple of seasons are now running a reserve team as well as going into partnership with the Hunslet Club and Hunslet Parkside to develop Junior rugby in the local area. The club are now actively seeking players at under 7, 8 and 9 with a view to running teams for the 2013 summer season. We are also on the lookout for new players of all abilities for our open age section where all new players are given a warm welcome.

Training times are as below.

Open Age - Tuesdays 7.30pm at the club, Thursdays 7.00pm, beza street pitch

Tots (3 to 5 yrs old) - Fridays 4.00pm to 4.45pm at the club

Years 1,2,3 & 4 5 to 8 year olds - Fridays 4.30pm to 5.30pm at the club

For further information contact the club on 0113 2716489

From the archives...

Sunday 20th Sept 2009 Co-Operative Championship One Elimination Semi Final Oldham 54 - Hunslet 30 HT 28-10 Ref J Leahy

Oldham: Reilly, Onyango, Littler, St Hilare, O'Connor 1 Try, N Roden, T Coyle 1 Try, Boults, M Roden 2 Tries, Kerr, Baines 4 Tries 9 Goals, Goulden, Lawton. Subs - Sykes, I'Anson, Menzies, Ashe 1 Try

Hunslet: Larvin, Rettie 2 Tries, Brown 1 Try, McHugh 1 Try 1 Goal, Mark 1 Try, Weedon 1 Try, P March, Lowe, Chapman, Watson, Wabo, Dooler, Young 1 Goal. Subs - D Robinson 1 Goal, Helme, Howey, Firm

Going into the first ever play off meeting between the 2 clubs, Hunslet were going into the game in confident mood having beaten the same opponents only 2 weeks earlier in a league game and then accounting for Blackpool in a hard won, elimination play off the week before.

Unfortunately it proved to be a game too far as the Oldham pack proved to be too strong especially Chris Baines, the former Warrington youngster who was in blockbusting form going in for 4 tries as well as kicking 9 goals for a Oldham record of 34 points in a playoff match.

Hunslet were 26-6 down at one stage but kept battling on with Wayne Rettie going over for 2

fine tries and Richard Chapman, the veteran hooker, being Hunslet's best player. Although out of the playoffs, progress had been made from the previous season when the club finished bottom of the league. 2010 would be a different story, the trophy.

On This Weekend

**1977 Division One
Championship
Castleford 20 Hunslet 13**
Tries: Brown 2, Appleyard
Goals: Gaitley 2
Referee G Burton HT 8-7
Att 3,160

**1986 Yorkshire Cup 1st
Round
Hunslet 12 Bradford 40**
Try: Milton
Goals: Platt 4
Tries: Woods 3, Fairbank 2, Jasiewicz 2, Ford
Goals: Wood 6
Referee G Berry HT 4-18
Att 3,101

**1997 Divisional
Premiership Quarter-Final
Hull 52 Hunslet 10**
Tries: Johnson 2, Hepi 2, Boyd, R Nolan, Hallas, Gray, Hewitt, Danby
Goals: Hewitt 6
Tries: Campbell, Pryce
Goals: Ellis
Referee P Taberner HT 28-10
Att 3,305

5 To Tackle

- 1) Who beat Oldham in the 2001 Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final?
- 2) Where was the final played?
- 3) Which twin brothers who played for Oldham also had a spell at Hunslet in 2005?
- 4) Who in Australia does Michael Maguire coach?
- 5) Which 2 players scored the Castleford tries in their 23-10 defeat to Leeds in the recent Challenge Cup Final?

1. Widnes Vikings, 2. Spoland, Rochdale, 3. David & Anthony Gibbons, 4. South Sydney Rabbitohs, 5. Daryl Clark and Oliver Holmes



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Hawks In The Community...

Hunslet's Got Talent

Wednesday night saw the Hunslet Hawks Dance Academy hold their annual talent contest. A fun night was had by all and our very own dance instructor Fran was particularly impressed with the show the children put on. Fran commented, "My dancers did themselves proud yet again, the hard work paid off and the confidence of the participants has grown tremendously! Congratulations to the winners and all who took part."

The Dance Academy are already planning their 'Halloween' themed dance show and have lots of exciting events planned so watch this space! Contact Fran on: 07889341405 for further details



Hawks Star at Wembley

We caught up with season ticket holder Simon Hirst who was representing the club as a flag bearer at the challenge cup final at Wembley.

Saturday 23.08.14

The big day is here! I got up at 7 am and put on my Hawks kit with pride, then made sure I had all my photo ID and other

information that I needed for the flag parade and access to Wembley stadium. I headed down for a full English breakfast in the Hotel restaurant. Once we had eaten, we then got on the tube as I had to be at the stadium for 10:30am.

Whilst walking up Wembley way (at around 9:30ish) I was surprised to see many fans milling around at that time, it was good to see as the atmosphere was building up nicely. Once I reached the stadium, I signed in, got my access badge and went into a room, under the stand where the Castleford supporters would be sitting, with the other flag bearers, where we had a briefing on the day ahead and what would be required of us. Once we had a briefing we had 2 pitch rehearsals and then a quick drink and bite to eat. Just doing the rehearsal gave me goose bumps, so imagine what it would be like walking out in front of 77,000 people a bit later on. I even took a Selfie on my mobile phone! After the rehearsal and a debrief I went pitch side with a couple of other flag bearers to watch the School boy final and to see the stadium starting to fill up, which got us all excited.

Around 1:45 we had to go back to the room to get ready for the parade. Then at around 2:30 pm we lined underneath the tunnel stand ready to walk out for 2:45pm. Whilst waiting, Ben Thaler and Steve Ganson walked

past us to a sound of boos and jeers, can't think why? I was excited and nervous as I could see and hear the crowd.

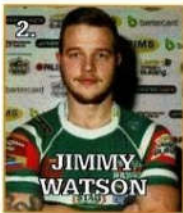
2:45 we walked out and was hit by a sound of 77,000 supporters cheering, it was unbelievable. Once the parade was finished we took up our respective positions, waiting for the 2 teams to come out for kick off, and I was stood behind the try line, near the corner flag at the Leeds Rhinos end. To my left Pat, Ben and the rest of the Benatmane family were cheering and waving with their Hunslet flag which brought a lump to my throat. Once the teams came out we stayed on the pitch, we sang abide with me and the national anthem, which was emotional, as it made me think of my granddad who I was close to, and always watched the challenge cup final.

Once the formalities were over, we marched off the pitch, handed the flags back and sat in our seats to watch the game. The game for me was very entertaining, with Leeds deserving there victory. After the game we headed back to the hotel to freshen up for the evening. We went for another meal and did the tourist thing by walking round Piccadilly and went past the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye. "Thank you Hunslet Hawks for allowing me to represent the club, it meant the world, and hope I did this great club proud."

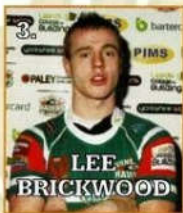
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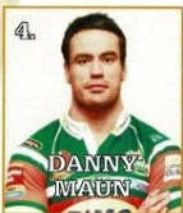
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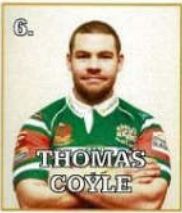
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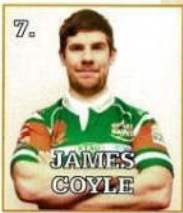
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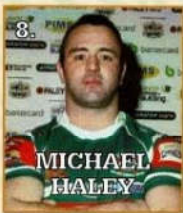
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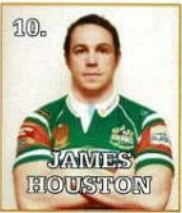
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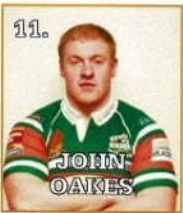
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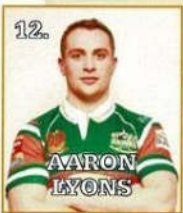
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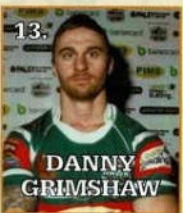
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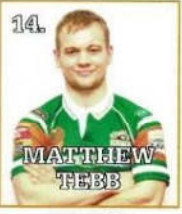
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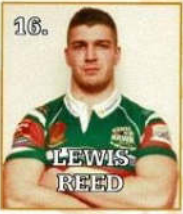
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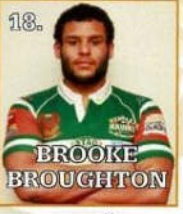
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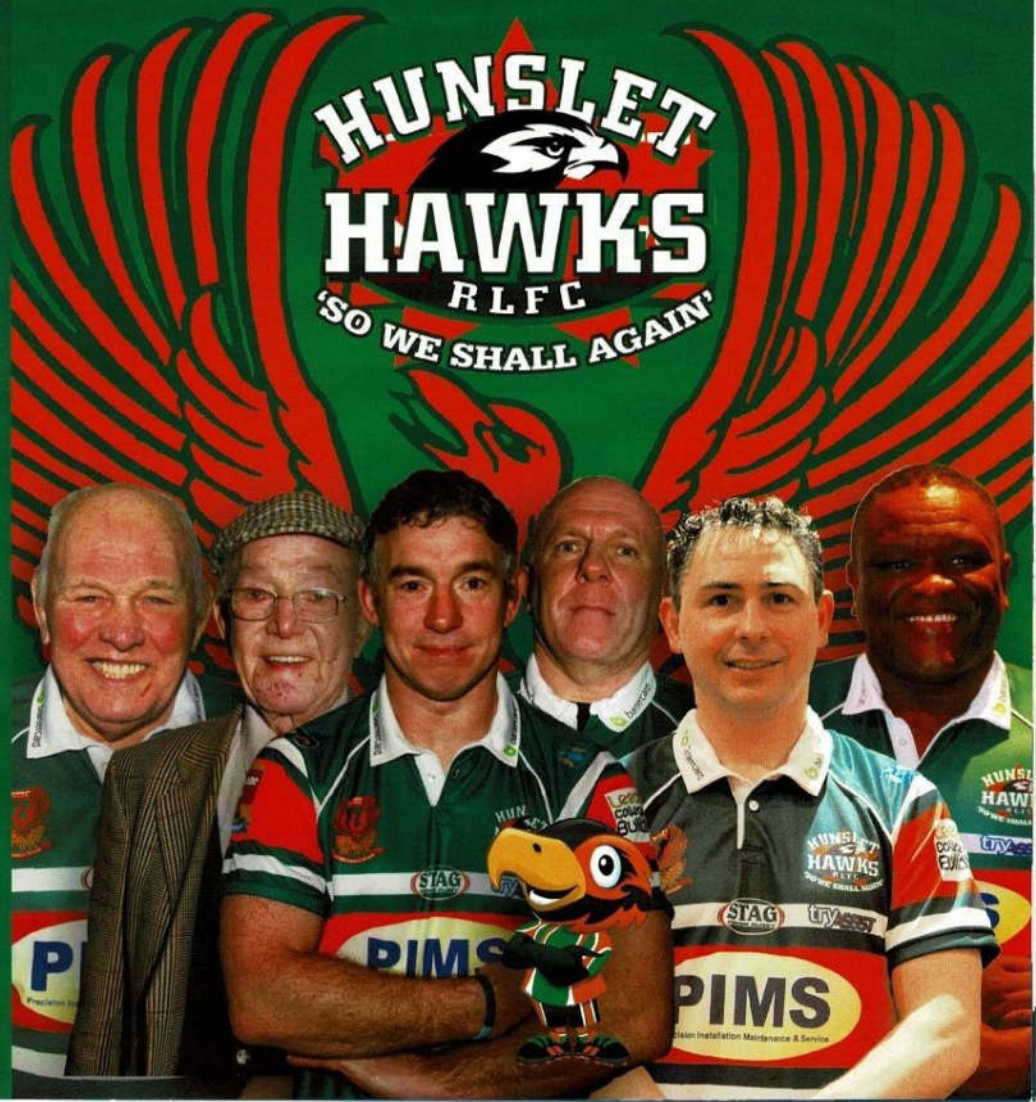


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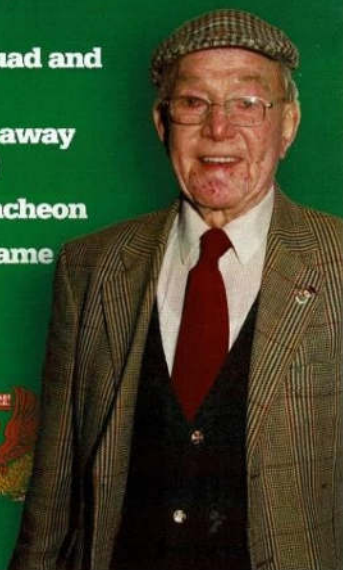
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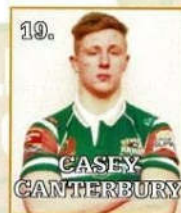
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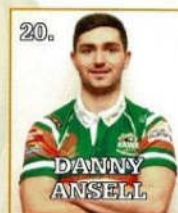
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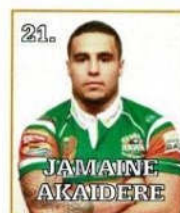
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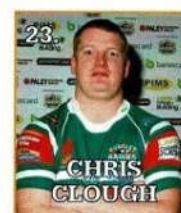
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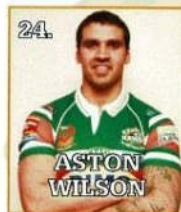
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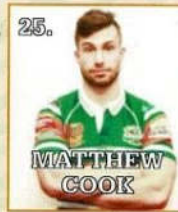
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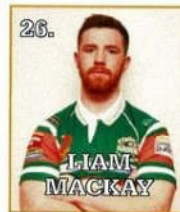
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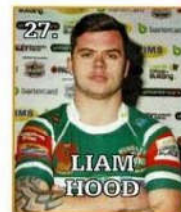
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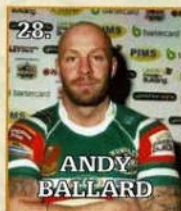
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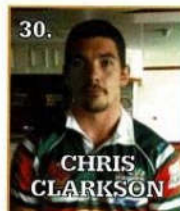
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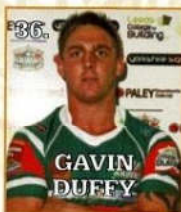
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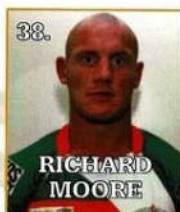
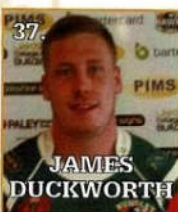
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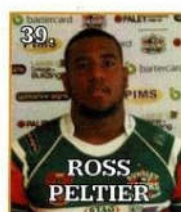
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Junior Hawks...



Good afternoon
everyone,
welcome to Harry
the Hawk's page!

Today's Mascot

Today's mascot for this crucial playoff game is 6 year old Lucy Hirst. Many of you may recognise her from being the mascot earlier on in the season and taking part with the Hawks Dance academy in our last home game against York. Lucy is now in year 2 at Morley Newlands primary school and her favourite players are Jimmy Watson, Brooke Broughton and David March. Lucy is also looking forward for today's game as she says it has been ages since she last came to watch the Hawks.



Holiday Fun

"Hey Harry, don't dive into that swimming pool. It's got no water in it."
Harry, the Hawk, "That's ok. I can't swim!"
"Harry, tell me how we can keep milk from going sour."
Harry, "Leave it in the cow!"
"Where is the English channel, Harry?"
Harry, "I'm not sure. Our tv doesn't receive it."
"Where can you find an ocean which isn't wet?"
Harry, "On a map!"

Wordsearch...

Today's word searches are all places you might go on holiday to the seaside in England, so see if you can find:

BLACKPOOL, HORNSEA, FILEY, NEWQUAY, SKEGNESS, DOVER, WHITBY, MORECOMBE, BRIGHTON and POOLE.

Words can go in a straight line in any direction. Good luck!

M	O	R	C	O	M	B	E	S	I
O	E	L	O	O	P	L	P	A	T
H	O	R	N	S	E	A	X	Y	Y
L	O	U	I	S	E	C	Q	A	B
S	S	E	N	G	E	K	S	U	T
L	U	C	Y	Y	D	P	F	Q	I
I	T	V	E	O	K	O	D	W	H
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One Short of a Front Row...

Saturday evening saw the launch of the first Hunslet Hawks RLFC Heritage dinner at the South Leeds Stadium. Players past and present, supporters and volunteers, together with local businesses ensured that the Parkside Suite was packed to the rafters for an evening that would see laughter and tears in equal measure. Master of Ceremonies Harry Gratton got the event underway with a prize raffle and had his work cut out during a lively interview with 90 year old

legend Alf "Ginger" Burnell. The family of ex-player Allan Snowden were in attendance as he was inducted into the club's 'Hall of Fame', and there was also a moving speech by Old Mother Benson, as he highlighted the club's chosen charity SITRAN, who will benefit financially from the dinner. Impressionist Kevin Connelly, and comedian Lea Roberts were both well received, and the evening was rounded off with an auction of sporting memorabilia. One of the major objectives the

Heritage team for this season was to get ex-players from all eras back involved with the club. To see names such as Burnell, Wolford, Crampton, King, Gibson, Baker and Brook all under one roof was a sight to behold. We swept the seas before boys and so we shall again.

Jarvo & Old Mother Benson





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2014 Fixtures/Results...

Date	KO	Versus	H/A	Res.	Score	Att.
Wed 1st Jan	1.30	Featherstone Rovers (F)	A	L	26-0	
Sun 26th Jan	2pm	Leeds Rhinos (F)	H	W	20-16	
Sun 2nd Feb	3pm	Wakefield Trinity Wildcats (F)	H	L	20-40	
Sun 2nd Mar	2:30	Hemel Stags	A	W	28-0	210
Sun 9th Mar	3pm	York City Knights	H	L	28-26	891
Sun 16th Mar	3pm	Oxford - Challenge Cup	H	W	68-6	278
Sun 23rd Mar	3pm	Oxford RLFC	A	W	46-20	301
Sun 30th Mar	3pm	London Skolars	H	W	60-4	486
Sun 6th Apr	3pm	Workington Town CC	H	W	27-10	504
Sun 13th Apr	3pm	Gloucester All Golds	A	W	44-4	306
Fri 18th Apr	2pm	Oldham RLFC	H	W	38-12	598
Sun 27th Apr	3pm	Wigan Warriors CC	A	L	52-8	4390
Sun 11th May	3pm	South Wales Scorpions	A	W	20-6	255
Sun 18th May	3pm	Gateshead Thunder	H	W	52-6	566
Sun 25th May	3pm	York City Knights	A	L	40-0	837
Sun 1st Jun	3pm	Oxford RLFC	H	W	32-12	417
Sun 15th Jun	3pm	Hemel Stags	H	W	26-6	450
Sun 29th Jun	3pm	Gloucester All Golds	H	L	23-16	430
Fri 4th Jul	7:30	Gateshead Thunder	A	W	45-6	457
Sun 13th Jul	3pm	South Wales Scorpions	H	W	74-0	456
Sun 27th Jul	3pm	Oldham RLFC	A	L	24-23	678
Sun 3rd Aug	3pm	Oxford RLFC	H	W	48-6	474
Sun 10th Aug	2:30	Hemel Stags	A	W	34-16	454
Sun 17th Aug	3pm	York City Knights	H	L	20-18	796
Fri 22nd Aug	6.30	London Skolars	A	W	36-10	1325
Sun 7th Sep	3pm	South Wales Scorpions	A	W	50-6	363

Gibbs & Dandy

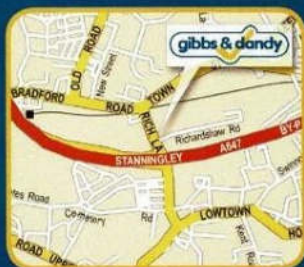
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Where are they now?...



How many of us remember walking across Old Run Road, over the Cuckoo Steps and then along the cinder track to Parkside? On Saturday afternoons, the closer you got to the ground the more you were crowded along by the men in their flat caps and the kids weaving in and out. The cinders were black and dusty so you knew you'd have to clean your Clarke's shoes when you got home. The noise and excitement built as you went to the schoolboy end. What shocked me as an innocent little girl were all the men at half time not bothering to go to the toilets but instead standing at the back of the main stand weeing onto it. No wonder it was pulled down. Come the summer, the space at the side of Parkside was turned over to Hunslet Feast – the best funfair apart from Goosefair. Waltzers, Shamrocks – no safety belts so you were thrown everywhere – side shows- it had the lot. Now the spot is rather

boring with its "light industrial units." And look what happened to the Greyhound Track. There's a spanking new cop shop on it. Go past at night and it's lit up as if it is a tourist attraction like Blackpool.

When we went to the old St Helens' ground for a Challenge Cup round, I remember being shocked at the scruffiness of it – wooden seats, 1 burger van and disgusting toilets. It didn't seem like a Super League ground at all and yet we'd been kept out because of our ground. Yet look what Batley have done with their ground – it's retained its character whilst making improvements. On a sunny day, you can't beat getting there early and eating chips at the picnic benches. It's got a Welcome Home feel about it.

Do you remember the Plate Final at the old Wembley? It was my first visit there and it was another place which looked good

on tv but was pretty awful in real life. We sat on benches like at school and when you went to the ladies' toilet there was a window behind you as you sat down with a staircase to the upper tiers so everyone could look in and see your bum. Fastest wee I ever did!

Bramley was another ground we shared. Now it's gone the way of Wigan's old place and become housing and shops and Bramley have moved to Rodley Rockets. In this year's Challenge Cup, walking up to Wigan's ground was like walking to work at a factory: it seemed to be in the middle of nowhere and lacking character. But our fans brought along some spirit and enlivened the harsh metal beams and plastic seats.

Yep, it's people who make the grounds great, with their banter, their friendliness, their passion. It sinks into the woodwork – takes a bit longer to sink into steel girders, that's all. Oh yes, and clean toilets too.

Pat Benatmane

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Tales from the treatment room...



Hello and welcome to today's game. Our final league game of the season saw us making the long trip down to South Wales. An excellent performance and result from the lads gained us home advantage in which is sure to be a fantastic playoff game this evening.

We suffered a setback before leaving Leeds with the exclusion of our influential captain David March through illness. The depth and strength of our squad showed with the likes of Danny Ansell coming back into the side to replace Marchy.

We had James Houston back in the travelling party with us for the trip. Although not quite ready to return for action against South Wales, he will be training with the squad this week and be fit for selection tonight. Liam Hood is also making speedy progress after fracturing his hand 5 weeks ago. He has now come out of his pot and started rehabilitation. We will assess this week and make a decision on his availability this week regarding tonight fixture.

I'd like to give special mention to Lewis Reed who made his first return to action in 6 weeks following an ankle injury sustained against Oldham in the away fixture at the end of July. Lewis has worked very hard on his rehabilitation and fitness since sustaining the injury. He has completed everything I have asked of him and he has returned to the team in better shape than before his injury. Well done pal!

We picked up some niggles on our last away trip. James Duckworth (groin) Luke Briscoe (foot) and James Coyle (calf) will be assessed this week. We will monitor them and see how they respond this week.

John Oakes sustained a nasty looking finger dislocation during last week's game. He was very calm and politely asked if I could "do anything with that?" during the game. Luckily it slotted nicely back into the joint at the first time of asking and he said "thanks" as he ran back into defensive line. He is my hard man of the week for that.

News on the long term injured. Marcus Elliot is having a knee operation on the 3rd of October which will see him sidelined for a number of months. Best of luck Marcus with that. We will be working with Marcus over the close season to get him ready for the new season.

Danny Grimshaw is also another long term casualty. Our worst fears were confirmed last week regarding the nature of his injury. We had Danny booked in

for an MRI scan 2 weeks ago which revealed a total rupture (tendon torn fully from the bone) of his bicep muscle. Danny had emergency surgery on this last week to re attach the tendon with screws. The surgery was a success and we are now focusing on Danny's rehabilitation. I'm very confident Danny will be 100% for the start of the 2015 season.

On a personal note I would just like to say that my first season here at Hunslet has been excellent. I am thoroughly enjoying my time here and have met some fantastic people. All the Staff, Darren, Barry, Johnny, Cassy and Trev - Thank you for all the help and making me feel very welcome. To all the players - thanks for your support and respect throughout the season - great bunch of lads, your togetherness and determination will see us win the grand final I'm certain of that. Let's do this for all the unbelievable support we get from the fans. They make this club so great.

Good luck to all and enjoy the game

Ryan Carmody

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Direct from the board...



Money makes the world go round, so the saying goes. That's never more appropriate than in the world of sport. In a month where we have seen Manchester United spend millions on boosting their squad (even though the current owners have mortgaged the club to the hilt). You can't stand still in business, and they know full well that two or three years without Champions league football, could see them potentially "doing a Leeds".

"Why is he talking about football?" I hear you say.... Well as the world's most high profile sport, it's a perfect example of how not to run a business. "Live within your means" and "Don't spend what you haven't got" are pretty much phrases from the past. Everyone now feels "entitled" to a 54in. flat screen TV, and peer pressure makes us feel like bad parents if 10yr old Jayden and Layla don't have the latest iPhone 6.

Rugby isn't much better run, and the unseemly scrum for a share of the SKY money doesn't reflect well on the people's game. Salford's Marwan Koukash however is a welcome addition to Rugby League, particularly as he is actually spending his own

money. He is making the RFL re-assess their strategy, and I can only wish him well in his quest to develop rugby's answer to McCarthy & Stone. The financial situations at clubs like Bradford and Wakefield are well documented, and are a salutary lesson to every team in the land.

At Championship level clubs like Hunslet can only look with envy at our friends across the river and the myriad of wealthy sponsors who ensure their success both on and off the field. They do a fine job there, but I sometimes think it is only marginally more difficult than selling kebabs at closing time. We are all looking for new income streams, but it is becoming increasingly difficult in the current climate to attract potential new sponsors, and so balancing the books has never been more important. In Neil Hampshire, we have a Chairman who is receptive of new commercial ideas, but also has a steady eye on the bank account.

At this time of year contracts are up for renewal, and we have to plan budgets for the coming season. At our last board meeting we had just lost to Oldham, and so we were pretty much resigned to another season in Championship One.

At the time of writing this column, it looks like we are back in the driving seat again, and it just emphasises how quickly things can change in sport. Every year Darren Williams rocks up to see what his playing budget for next season will be, and of course he always asks for more than he knows he will get.

Resembling a scene from the film "Scrooge", we always look forward to seeing his little face pressed up against the boardroom window, whilst the rest of the Directors are feasting on quails eggs and fine wine. And like on most Christmas mornings, Darren knows that when he opens his "budget" present, he will more than likely get an Action Man deserter again.

Going back to my football analogy, we literally DO try to live within our means, because as a board, we have a responsibility to ensure that the club not only survives, but continues to flourish. With that aim, we have to balance our ambitions on the field, with the realities off it. With yet again one of the smallest budgets in the league, we still manage to both retain existing, and attract new players to the club. This is due largely to the hard work that Darren puts into utilising his contacts in the game, and also that a lot of players want to work under Head Coach Barry Eaton. There is also the Hunslet factor, where a lot of players actually want to play for a club with a tremendous sporting history like ours. How else would we prise away a player like York captain Jack Lee?

Hopefully you will be reading this prior to a home tie against Oldham, and then it is onwards and upwards. Keep the faith...

**Andy
Hemingway**

